



BIOGRAPHY

SOUTH DAKOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

COLONEL QUENTEN M. ESSER

Colonel Quentin M. Esser is the Commander of the 114th Operations Group, located at Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, SD. As commander he directs all aviation actions and is responsible for all phases of training and equipping combat F-16 forces.

Colonel Esser received his commission through the University of Nebraska Air Force ROTC in 1998 and completed Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma. Following the F-16 Basic Course at Luke AFB, Arizona, he completed tours at Shaw AFB, South Carolina, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, and Luke AFB, Arizona. Lieutenant Colonel Esser separated the Active Duty Air Force and joined the South Dakota Air National Guard in 2008. In 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Esser attended the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA and returned in 2015 to serve in his current position.

Prior to Operations Group Commander, he held positions of 175th Fighter Squadron Commander, 175th Fighter Squadron Director of Operations, Wing Program Manager, Wing and Squadron Weapons Officer, Flight Commander, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, and Squadron Programmer.



Colonel Esser is a command pilot with over 2,500 flying hours in military aircraft. He has over 300 combat hours in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

EDUCATION

December 1997	Bachelor of Arts, Doane College, Crete, NE
August 2003	Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
June 2005	U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV
August 2011	Air Command & Staff College, by correspondence
June 2015	Master of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1998 – August 1999, Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, OK
2. September 1999 – November 1999, Lead-In Fighter Training, Columbus AFB, MS
3. January 2000 – September 2000, F-16 Basic Course, Luke AFB, AZ
4. September 2000 – November 2001, F-16CJ Pilot, 77th Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, SC

5. November 2001 – May 2004, F-16CJ Pilot, 157th Fighter Squadron, McEntire Joint ANG Base, SC
6. June 2004 – December 2004, F-16C Instructor Pilot, 308th Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ
7. January 2005 – June 2005, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Nellis AFB, NV
8. July 2005 – May 2008, F-16 Weapons Officer, 308th Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ
9. June 2008 – June 2014, Program Manager, Director of Operations, 114th FW, Joe Foss Field, SD
10. July 2014 – June 2015, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA
11. June 2015 – May 2016, Commander 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field, SD
12. May 2016 – Present, Commander, 114th Operations Group, Joe Foss Field, SD

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot

Military Flight hours: More than 2,500

Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, AT-38B, F-16

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Meritorious Unit Award with oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 5 oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal with 2 stars

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Air Force Longevity Service with 4 devices

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 'M' Device

Air Force Training Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant, 18 January 1998

First Lieutenant, 18 January 2000

Captain, 18 January 2004

Major, 1 August, 2007

Lieutenant Colonel, 6 August 2011

Colonel, 7 December 2016

(Current as of 1 January 2017)

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